

For Immediate Release: August 24, 2009

Contact: Patrick Curley Office: (414) 286-3528 Cell: (414) 708-3489

## MAYOR BARRETT'S RESPONSE TO TODAY'S PRESS EVENT ON GOVERNANCE REFORM

To show up at an organized press event and summarily dismiss MPS governance reform without acknowledging our children's educational needs or the facts about MPS educational outcomes, is either a sad sign of self interest or a deliberate attempt to run from the facts.

Milwaukee leads the nation in the racial achievement gap. We are at the bottom. We are behind Mississippi, Alabama and Detroit. Our high school dropout rate is unacceptably high. The school district is facing huge financial challenges and is in need of classroom resources.

Our children, our parents and our teachers deserve better than the status quo.